

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-11
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R 232231Z JUN 78
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2229
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE
INFO USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

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VIENNA PLEASE PASS MATTESON USDEL WOMEN'S PREPCOM

YAOUNDE PLEASE PASS DEPUTY ASST SECRETARY DALLEY

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PORG, SHUM
SUBJECT: US STRATEGY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVES
IN THE UN SYSTEM

REF: A) GENEVA 08339, B) GENEVA 09185

1. USUN AGREES WITH REFTEL A THAT A STRATEGY SESSION
SOMETIME THIS SUMMER WITH AT LEAST THE PRESENCE OF
YOUNG, WELLS, MAYNES, DALLEY, VANDEN HEUVEL AND
MEZVINSKY WOULD BE HELPFUL. OBVIOUSLY, THE
PRESENCE OF HEWITT, TYSON, MATTESON AND THE HUMAN
RIGHTS OFFICER FROM US MISSION GENEVA AND PERHAPS
SOMEONE FROM US UNESCO OFFICE WOULD BE HELPFUL, ALSO.
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(AMBASSADOR YOUNG IS NOW TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED TO BE
IN GENEVA JULY 3 TO JULY 12.) THIS MESSAGE IS AN
ATTEMPT TO PLACE SUCH A STRATEGY MEETING IN THE CONTEXT
OF 1) A PROPOSED GENERAL STRATEGY, 2) A SERIES OF
INITIATIVES IN WHICH THE US COULD PARTICIPATE AND
3) PREPARATORY MEETINGS AND CONSULTATIONS BOTH BEFORE
AND AFTER THE SESSION IN GENEVA.

2. AS A GENERAL US HUMAN RIGHTS STRATEGY IN UN FORUMS, USUN SUGGESTS THAT GIVEN THE OVERALL DESIRE OF THE US TO CONTINUE TO BUILD DEEPER AND BROADER CONTACTS WITH KEY NON-ALIGNED NATIONS IN BOTH THE POLITICAL AND HUMAN RIGHTS FIELDS, THE US SHOULD FOCUS ON INITIATIVES WHICH CAN BE PROMOTED WITH NON-ALIGNED AS WELL AS WESTERN SUPPORT. IT APPEARS TO US THAT THE MAJOR TASKS AT THIS TIME ARE: A) THE BUILDING OF A HUMAN RIGHTS ALLIANCE WITH KEY NON-ALIGNED NATIONS (ESPECIALLY INDIA AND NIGERIA) AND SUPPORTING THEIR HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVES. B) CONSOLIDATING THE RECENT INCREASED INTEREST IN HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE RECENT ADVANCES UNDER 1503 IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION (HRC) BY STRENGTHENING, UPGRADING AND EXPANDING THE HUMAN RIGHTS DIVISION (HRD) STAFF (SEE REFTEL B), AND DEVELOPING PLANS FOR AN IMPROVED UN HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATION AND PROGRAM TO BE PRESENTED TO THE NEXT SESSION OF THE HRC, WHICH WILL PROBABLY BE DEVOTED LARGELY TO THE OVERALL ANALYSIS; AND C) DEVELOPING SOME POSITIVE US RESPONSES TO THE NON-ALIGNED ASPIRATIONS EXPRESSED IN 32/130 FOR A GREATER CONCERN WITH ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS WITHOUT SACRIFICING COMMITMENT TO CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS.

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3. PERHAPS THE MAJOR TASK OF THE NEXT FEW MONTHS IS THE DEVELOPMENT OF A USG MODEL OF AN IDEAL HUMAN RIGHTS PROGRAM AND ORGANIZATION TO BE THE BASIS FOR OUR PROPOSALS AND RESPONSES AT THE MEETING ON THE "OVER-ALL ANALYSIS" OF THE HRC NEXT FEBRUARY-MARCH. IT IS HERE THAT THE PROPOSALS FOR A HIGH COMMISSIONER, REGIONAL COMMISSION AND COMMISSIONERS, COORDINATOR OF HUMAN RIGHTS PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES WITH THE RANK OF UNDER-SECRETARY GENERAL, AN ENLARGED COMMISSION, TWO SUB-COMMISSIONS, AND INTERNATIONAL COURT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, ETC., MUST BE EVALUATED, INTEGRATED, AND PUT INTO A PACKAGE.

4. AS SOME SPECIFIC INITIATIVES UPON WHICH TO BEGIN AND IN ADDITION TO THE ITEMS CONTAINED IN REFTELS A AND B, USUN WOULD SUGGEST THE FOLLOWING:

A) PROPOSAL FOR A NEW AGENDA ITEM FOR THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY: "IMPROVING THE COORDINATION AND COMMUNICATION AMONG UN AGENCIES IN THE STRUGGLE TO PROMOTE AND PROTECT HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS." (THIS WOULD INCLUDE REPORTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS PROCEDURES

AND ACTIVITIES FROM ILO, UNESCO, WHO, REGIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSIONS, ETC.) THIS PROPOSAL ORIGINATED AND IS BEING DEVELOPED BY IO/HR.

B) A PROPOSAL FOR THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO AUTHORIZE AND FUND A RESUMED SESSION OF THE HRC IN 1979 SHOULD THE HRC DECIDE THAT IT CANNOT ADEQUATELY COMPLETE THE "OVERALL ANALYSIS" OF UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS PROGRAMS IN ORDER TO REPORT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN 1979 (AS MANDATED BY 32/130).

C) A PROPOSAL (SEE REFTEL B) TO UPGRADE THE HRD TO A DEPARTMENT, TO EXPAND THE STAFF OF THE HRD TO INCLUDE AT LEAST THE FOLLOWING: FOUR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MORE OFFICERS IN THE FIELD OF PRIVATE COMMUNICATIONS, A REGIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS FIELD OFFICER ATTACHED TO EACH OF THE HEADQUARTERS STAFFS OF THE REGIONAL

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VIENNA PLEASE PASS MATTESON USDEL WOMEN'S PREPCOM

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ECONOMIC COMMISSIONS, AND AN ADDITIONAL OFFICER IN THE
NEW YORK LIAISON OFFICE.

D) A PROPOSAL TO THE THIRD COMMITTEE THAT THE PANEL
OF EXPERTS CREATED IN 1969 BE UPDATED, AND THAT ITS
MANDATE BE EXPANDED TO INCLUDE HUMAN RIGHTS GOOD
OFFICES MISSIONS AS DIRECTED BY THE SYG, AND THAT
FUNDING BE ALLOTTED FOR SUCH MISSIONS.

E) A STRATEGY OF PRESENTING (OR STIMULATING THE
PRESENTATION) TO THE SUB-COMMISSION ALL THE AVAILABLE
DOCUMENTATION ON THE THREE OR FOUR MOST
SERIOUS HUMAN RIGHTS NATIONAL PROBLEMS, IN SUCH A
LIST SEEKING BOTH IDEOLOGICAL AND GEOGRAPHICAL
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DISTRIBUTION, AND SEEKING TO EXPAND THE
NUMBER OF 1503 CASES TO INCLUDE THE WORST HUMAN RIGHTS
PROBLEMS, SUCH AS EQUATORIAL GUINEA AND ARGENTINA.

F) EVALUATION OF THE FRG PROPOSAL FOR THE CREATION
OF AN INTERNATIONAL COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS, THAT
COULD RECEIVE COMPLAINTS FROM NATIONAL TRIBUNALS OR
COMMISSIONS, AND PERHAPS THE SUB-COMMISSION.

G) EMPHASIS ON THE PROMOTION OF LOCAL, NATIONAL AND
REGIONAL COMMISSIONS.

H) TWO MEETINGS OF THE HRC PER YEAR, WITH A
DIFFERENTIATED AGENDA, ALTERNATING MEETINGS BETWEEN
NEW YORK AND GENEVA.

I) DISCUSSION OF METHODS TO STREAMLINE THE GENERAL
ASSEMBLY TO AVOID CURRENT DUPLICATION IN PLENARY,
THIRD AND FOURTH COMMITTEE ON SUCH TOPICS AS THE
MIDDLE EAST, SOUTH AFRICA AND SELF-DETERMINATION.

5. IN ADDITION TO THESE SPECIFICS, USUN ALSO SEES
SOME OTHER GENERAL PROBLEM AND OR OPPORTUNITY AREAS:

A) WE NEED AN INITIATIVE ON RACISM AND RACIAL
DISCRIMINATION THAT WILL OUTFLANK 3379, AND HELP US
MAINTAIN OUR CREDIBILITY IN THIS AREA.

B) WE NEED SOME INITIATIVES IN THE AREA OF ECONOMIC
HUMAN RIGHTS. PERHAPS THE FOOD CORPS IDEA CAN BE

PROPOSED THIS YEAR.

C) PERHAPS WE SHOULD CONSIDER INTRODUCING AGAIN THE
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US INITIATIVE ON TORTURE, CALLING FOR A SPECIAL
WORKING GROUP OF EXPERTS TO REPORT EACH YEAR
TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY. THIS IDEA, WHICH WAS
ORIGINALLY DEVELOPED BY IO/HR TWO YEARS AGO, COMPLEMENTS
THE PROCESS OF DRAFTING THE CONVENTION.

6. USUN BELIEVES THAT THE TIME IS RIPE FOR A SERIES
OF COORDINATED HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVES IN THE UN.
THE PREREQUISITES TO SUCCESS IN THESE EFFORTS ARE:
1) STAFF PREPARATION IN-DEPTH ON EACH OF THE
PROPOSALS SELECTED, 2) CONTINUOUS COORDINATION
AND COMMUNICATION AMONG IO, GENEVA, AND USUN,
3) COORDINATED AND SELECTIVE CONSULTATIONS WITH OTHER
GOVERNMENTS IN WASHINGTON, NEW YORK, GENEVA AND
CAPITALS. THE GENEVA STRATEGY MEETINGS CAN PLAY AN
IMPORTANT ROLE IN AN ONGOING AND OPEN-ENDED PROCESS.

7. WE AGREE WITH MISSION GENEVA (REF B PARA 7)
THAT IT IS BASIC TO THE SUCCESS OF ANY INITIATIVES
TO STRENGTHEN HUMAN RIGHTS MACHINERY FOR VAN BOVEN
TO ENFORCE DISCIPLINE ON HIS OWN STAFF AND GAIN MAJOR
IMPROVEMENTS IN PRODUCTIVITY. ONLY THEN CAN A
DEMONSTRABLE NEED FOR EXPANSION BE SUCCESSFULLY
CARRIED. SECONDLY, DESPITE THE DIFFICULTIES
ENTAILED IN GUIDANCE FURNISHED HIM BY THE UN CONTROLLER,
USUN CONSIDERS IT ESSENTIAL THAT VAN BOVEN
SCRUPULOUSLY ESCHEW ANY HINT OF LEGERDEMAIN IN SEEKING
TO JUSTIFY STAFF INCREASE (PARA 1 AND 2, REF B).
WEAK OR QUESTIONABLE EVIDENCE WILL MERELY INVITE
HIGHLY EFFECTIVE SOVIET ATTACKS IN UNGA FIFTH
COMMITTEE. LEONARD

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